



Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

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Commercial Shipping

Louis M. Herman, Ph.D.
Conservation

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DBEDT-Ocean Resources

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US Coast Guard

Rebecca Hommon
US Navy

February 23, 2009

Mr. Kevin R. Kuroda
House Sergeant-At-Arms
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 017
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Recommendation to combine HB83 and HB1765

Dear Mr. Kuroda:

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (sanctuary) is dedicated to the protection of a unique resource: the Central Pacific population of humpback whales and their habitat in the main Hawaiian Islands. The Sanctuary Advisory Council recently reviewed HB83 and HB1765 submitted to the Legislature on January 22 and January 28, 2009 respectively.

As you know, HB83 requires operators of motorboats and thrillcraft in the State to complete a boater safety course. Additionally, HB1765 establishes a mandatory boating safety education program within the State. As the Council Chair, I am writing to inform the Hawaii State Legislature that the council supports the following recommendations that are relevant to humpback whales:

Combining HB83 and HB1765 to include thrill craft and non-motorized craft over 20 feet in length. In addition, we further recommend the inclusion of educational materials on safe boating practices around marine mammals as a component of the boating safety course.

Please convey the Council's support of these recommendations to all appropriate parties.

Sincerely,

William A. Friedl
Advisory Council Chair
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale
National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

cc: Naomi McIntosh, Sanctuary Superintendent, HI Humpback Whale NMS (NOAA)
Ben Villaflor, Senate Sergeant-At-Arms, Hawaii State Legislature
Jeffrey Walters, Ph.D., Sanctuary Co-Manager, HI Humpback Whale NMS (Hawaii DLNR, DAR)